

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-372409)

May 14, 1953

SAC, PITTSBURGH (67-2584A)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~REGISTERED MAIL~~

MATTHEW CVETIC
Former Pittsburgh Security Informant C-113

Re Pittsburgh letter to Bureau 12-3-52.

b7D

On April 20, 1953, Pittsburgh Security Informant [redacted] while turning over to the Pittsburgh Office some miscellaneous material determined to have been in his possession, also made available to the Pittsburgh Office the following material which relates to MATTHEW CVETIC, photostatic copies of which documents are being furnished as enclosures to the Bureau as listed hereinafter.

1. Text of 12 page speech by CVETIC captioned "I was a Communist for the FBI."
2. Program of the Bloomsburg, Pa. Rotary Club, who sponsored a speech by CVETIC at Bloomsburg, Pa., on March 27, 1953.
3. One page leaflet from J. C. DINE, Frederic W. Ziv Co., 488 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York, containing biographical data concerning CVETIC and "I Was a Communist for the FBI."
4. One page leaflet from J. C. Dine, Frederic W. Ziv Co., New York, New York, concerning "Partial Results of Activities MATTHEW CVETIC, Former FBI Undercover Agent in the Communist Party."

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[redacted] also made available a nine page mimeographed document captioned "From: Philip Bucci Associates For: American Legion, dated August 7, 1952, 'For Immediate Release'", an address by Matt Cvetic, Former FBI Undercover Agent in the Communist Party, delivered before the Pennsylvania American Legion Convention in Philadelphia on August 7, 1952, at Convention Hall, 1:30 PM.

Enclosures - 4

JJO'N:pbe

cc: 134-14A

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, PITTSBURGH
RE: MATTHEW CVETIC
Former Pittsburgh Security Informant C-113

It is noted that a photostatic copy of said document was furnished to the Bureau as an enclosure with referenced Pittsburgh letter.

The above is being furnished to the Bureau as a matter of information.

From J. C. Dine
Frederic W. Ziv Company
488 Madison Avenue
New York City 22
MU 8-4700

MATT CVETIC

"I WAS A COMMUNIST FOR THE FBI".

SUBJECT:

**Partial Results of Activities of Matt Cvetic
former FBI Undercover Agent in the Communist Party**

1. Delivered to the FBI over 50,000 pages of reports and documents on over 4000 secret meetings with Soviet Agents and their co-conspirators in the American Communist Party.
2. Delivered to FBI reports on activities of the Communist Party in the Western Pennsylvania district and New York, Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Washington, D.C., the West Coast and Canada.
3. Named over 325 American Communist Party functionaries under oath in sworn testimony before the House Committee on Un-American Activities.
4. Turned over to the FBI and Congressional committees documents exposing the Communist Party plot to sabotage our war effort in Korea.
5. Exposed the methods used by the American Communist Party to raise over \$50,000,000 annually through Communist-controlled front organizations.
6. Blueprinted for the Congressional committees the activities of the Labor Youth League, the youth arm of the Communist Party in the United States which was set up on the direct orders of the late Soviet leader, Joseph V. Stalin.
7. Gave the U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary testimony on the Espionage activities of Personnel attached to Embassies and Consulates under Soviet domination in the United States.
8. Testified in many cases for the government involving the activities of Soviet Agents and American Communist Party Leaders. Many American Communists and Soviet Agents ousted from key positions in government, education, industry, trade unions, etc., as a result of Cvetic's sworn testimony.
9. Exposed Communist methods of infiltration into industry, education, government, trade unions. Broke the major Communist Front organization operating in America.
10. Impartial newspaper observers, who analyzed the result of Matt Cvetic's nine years undercover work in the Communist Party, report that the blow to the Communist International in Western Pennsylvania was so devastating it would take the Communists more than 20 years to recover - if they do so at all!

NOTE: Copies of testimony given under oath by Matt Cvetic can be obtained by writing to the U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary, the House Committee on Un-American Activities or to your U. S. Senator or Congressman.

From J. C. Dine
Frederic W. Ziv Company
488 Madison Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.
MU 8-4700

MATT CVETIC

"I WAS A COMMUNIST FOR THE FBI"

SUBJECT:

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

Born: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 4, 1909. One of eleven children (7 boys and 4 girls)

Education: St. Mary's Elementary School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
St. Vincent College Prep, Latrobe, Pa.
Curry Business College, Pittsburgh, Pa.
International School of Criminology

Employment: General Motors Radio Division
U.S. Dept. of Labor (U.S. Employment Service)

UNDERCOVER ACTIVITIES: Requested by the FBI in April 1941 to infiltrate Communist Party for the purpose of securing intelligence information on the activities of the Communist Party in behalf of the U.S. Government. Complied with the request of the FBI and actually joined the Communist Party for this purpose. From April, 1941, until February, 1950, when Cvetic testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities, he reported regularly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Personal: Mother and Father came to this country from Slovenia, Austria. Both parents, who became citizens and staunch Americans, were very critical of their son's Communist activities. Father was a successful business man in the Lawrenceville section of Pittsburgh.

Mother died in October, 1941, believing her favorite son had betrayed his country. Father, who had been ill for three years, died on Memorial Day, 1950, about three months after Matt made a public expose before the Committee on Un-American Activities.

On Memorial Day, 1950 - three months after the public expose Matt was speaking in Punksutawney, Pa. before a crowd of some 8000 people. In the middle of the address Matt was notified that his father was dying at St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh. Matt returned to Pittsburgh, proceeded to his father's room in the hospital where his father came out of a coma long enough to tell Matt he was glad that all his children were good Americans.

MATT CVETIC, FORMER F.B.I. UNDERCOVER AGENT

• This survey served me well when I posed as a Communist for the F. B. I. since, when in the Communist Party, I was seeing first hand a band of international criminals. Having studied the criminal mind, I was able as an undercover agent to match wits with Communist criminals.

In 1939 I applied for a commission in Army Intelligence, but was turned down because of height — five feet four.

At that time I was working as a placement interviewer for the United States Employment Service in Pittsburgh.

One day I got a mysterious telephone call and was asked to be at a certain cafe at a certain hour.

The mysterious caller wouldn't discuss over the telephone what his call was all about.

I kept the appointment.

The caller turned out to be a special agent of the F. B. I.

When we sat down in the back booth, the F. B. I. agent said, "Cvetic, we've checked on you from A to Z."

"We want you to do a very important job for us," said the F. B. I. agent. "If you take this job it may involve you in a great deal of danger. Most certainly you are going to lose the respect of your friends and your family. Frankly, you may get into a situation where we won't be able to help you. You might even lose your life and we might even have to deny knowing you."

"We want you to join the Communist Party as an F. B. I. undercover agent!"

The F. B. I. agent told me to think it over. About 10 days later, I accepted the assignment.

Warnings of the F. B. I. came true. During those nine years I lost the respect of my friends and family. My mother died believing me a traitor. My brothers and sisters wouldn't speak to me. My twin sons resented me. My late father -- who lived to learn the truth -- once offered me ten dollars to change my name. Actually my father, who wouldn't speak to me, tried to give me the ten dollars through my mother. That was the last conversation I ever had

with her. She died two days later.

Many people ask me if I would do it all over again. My answer is yes.

Since the Spring of 1950 when I ended my nine-year masquerade, I have seen the fruits of my undercover work.

In addition to the 20,000 pages of reports I made for the F. B. I., I have testified at many Congressional hearings and appeared as a Government witness at many Communist trials.

My work helped unmask the Communist conspiracy, helped send to jail top Soviet agents. To sum it up, I helped upset the Communist timetable for the violent overthrow of the United States.

Yes, I would do it all over again.

Joining the Communist Party

It is ironical that a minority party, such as the Communist Party claims to be, is super cautious in accepting members. One would think the Communists would accept recruits with open arms. Actually it required twenty-two months for me to get a Communist Party card.

Communist Party membership requires proven disloyalty to the United States. It took those twenty-two months to dupe the Commies into tagging me as a disloyal American.

My job as a placement interviewer was of help in getting a foothold in Communism. By cultivating Communists who worked in the same U. S. employment office, my Red contacts grew. These Communists with government jobs kept their party membership secret but not from me. I had my own ways of finding out. During lunch and other periods when these secret Reds parroted the pro-Soviet line, I agreed with them. Soon I became known as one sympathetic to their Communist cause. Later, there was an influx of Communists at my desk seeking

jobs in key defense industries and in government. Often these applicants would whisper to me, "Comrade, I hear you are one of us." I nodded.

The Communist job applicants got special service from me. This included giving the F. B. I. all the information about them so they could be under constant F. B. I. surveillance.

After twenty-two months of attending Communist meetings, I was asked to attend a Party recruiting meeting at a Pittsburgh high school. It is pertinent to point out that after I exposed the Communist conspiracy in 1950 the Pittsburgh School Board stopped letting the Communist Party use school buildings for meetings.

That night I stopped playing hard to get and got my Communist Party card.

Communist Party Activities

During my nine years of posing as a Communist for the F. B. I., the Communist Party assigned me to some seventy-five Communist committees and front organizations. Although I used Pittsburgh as my headquarters, my Communist Party activities ranged from coast to coast and Canada.

My first job was in the Professional Branch of the Communist Party. This Bolshevik boot training lasted for a year. My fellow classmates included Communist educators, scientists, government employees and the like all studying to be one of Stalin's left-hand men.

In May, 1944, the Communists assigned me to the Nationality Commission of the Communist Party. The new post meant meetings with top Soviet agents and secret police and American Communist traitors.

Working With Soviet Agents

Contrary to myths, Soviet agents don't slink in dark alleys or crawl out of the woodwork. In years of working with Soviet agents, I learned: they came from Washington embassies of iron curtain countries, from the staffs of the United Nations, Communist consulates throughout the United States, from trade travel and relief missions of the Soviet Union and her satellites. Many of these Soviet agents operate in Communist front organizations. Among these were the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee (which financed Gerhart Eisler), the American Slav Congress and the International Workers Order.

I helped kill the International Workers Order which was a Communist front posing as an insurance organization. It fleeced American workers of millions of dollars to finance thousands of Soviet agents in the United States. In 1951 the New York State Supreme Court ordered the I.W.O. dissolved. I was a government witness at that trial.

Among the Soviet agents with whom I worked was Steve Nelson. This arch Soviet spy was born Steve Masarosh. He attended sabotage school at the Lenin Institute in Moscow and before coming to Western Pennsylvania, operated the Soviet atom bomb spy ring in Berkeley, California.

Nelson was assigned to Pittsburgh in 1948 to worm his way into key industries. Shortly after I unmasked myself as an F. B. I. undercover agent, Nelson was arrested and charged with violating Pennsylvania's anti-sedition law. Since I worked with Nelson daily, I, more than anyone, was able to bring about his Waterloo. At his trial I was a star Government witness. The jury's verdict was guilty on twelve counts and Nelson is now serving a twenty-year jail term.

Experiences of an Undercover Agent

The 24-hours-a-day job of being an undercover agent — with its

outwitting Soviet agents, leading many lives, involved in Communist intrigue, espionage and spending around-the-clock with those agents conspiring to overthrow our government -- was tough on the nerves.

Some incidents, not humorous at the time, later gave me some laughs that enabled me to carry on.

For example, in 1947 the Communists suspected me of being an F. B. I. agent.

I was called up before the Communist trial board for a hearing. For three hours four trial board members put me through the wringer. Finally the hearing ended and the Soviet agent who conducted the hearing asked me to drive into town with him. In his car he said, "Comrade, do not be concerned with these charges because we consider you a loyal Communist. But the comrade who brought these charges against you -- well, we don't trust him and we want you to watch him."

Later this same Soviet agent assigned me to the job of ferreting out F. B. I. agents who might be in the Party. So, I spent the next two years looking for my elusive self.

Another incident was when Bill Albertson, District Secretary of the Communist Party of Western Pennsylvania, who was arrested in Detroit in 1951 by F. B. I. agents, feared that secret Communist documents might fall into F. B. I. hands.

These documents contained the names of hundreds of Communist Party members. Albertson asked me to remove them from the secret hiding place and burn them.

Rest assured, I removed the Communist secret documents and they are now in the files of the F. B. I.

This incident happened in my Pittsburgh hotel in 1946. The Communist

Party notified me that a member of the Soviet Secret Police was coming to Pittsburgh to check on things. I was asked by local Party leaders to get hotel accommodations for the Soviet agent. This was a chore I enjoyed. I got the room and met him at the station the next morning. As we were about to enter the room that I had carefully reserved, he said, "Wait a minute, Tovarich (Russian for Comrade), I will go in first."

Motioning me to keep quiet he walked in. He searched the closet, he looked under the bed, opened the lavatory door and drew the shower curtain back. Suddenly he put the phone on the floor and covered it with his overcoat. He whispered, "Sometimes a telephone can be wired and you can hush it up this way." Then he turned the radio on real loud and he turned to me and shouted, "Now, Comrade, we can talk. In Washington — those F. B. I. lice are always spying on us."

Little did he know that he was with an F. B. I. undercover agent. He also didn't know that I got him a room with a connecting door so his next-room neighbors, who were F. B. I. agents, could have a nearby listening post.

One of the closest squeaks was when I walked out of my secret hotel room and ran smack into Steve Nelson in the hallway. The Communist Party didn't know I was living in the hotel under an alias. At that time, I was also engaging in a legitimate insurance selling business. As I rounded the corner and ran head-on into Steve Nelson, he asked me what I was doing in the hotel. He suggested I might be working for the F. B. I. and meeting agents there.

I quickly asked him, "Are you sure you're not working for the F. B. I. and spying on me?"

Making up a quick excuse, I told Nelson, the Party boss, I was attending an insurance convention at the hotel. By a lucky coincident, such a convention was going on.

My insurance sideline paid big dividends in getting information on Communists for the F. B. I. I happened to sell automobile, accident and health insurance and made use of my Communist Party contacts to sell policies. I even sold auto and hospitalization policies to Steve Nelson.

This was the trick. In addition to getting certain information from policy holders for the insurance companies, I made out a more extensive questionnaire than was necessary, asking personal information and statistics. I filled out the shorter questionnaires for the insurance companies but sent the others with more valuable material to the F. B. I.

Communist Party Aims

Although I've had some amusing experiences as an undercover agent, the overall picture isn't so funny. That is, when one realizes what the Communist Party's program is for America.

Slave camps in Russia and mass murder in China sound far away. But the same thing is planned for the United States if the Communist Party ever takes over here.

Here is the Communist aim that was frequently discussed in the many Communist Party meetings I attended. The Communists plotted to violently overthrow the United States government, set up a dictatorship under the thumb of the Kremlin and ultimately liquidate -- the Communist word for mass murder -- one-third of the population of the United States!

Communist Methods

The biggest danger is to underestimate the Communist menace. Take heed to F. B. I. Director J. Edgar Hoover, who says there are approximately 35,000 registered members of the American Communist Party. In addition, F. B. I.

Director Hoover says there are some 13,000 Soviet agents in the United States. And there are many fellow travelers, sympathizers, pinkos and dupes supporting the Communist conspiracy.

Basically, the main problem of the Communist Party is minority politics. This brings to mind the great paradox of how a handful of Communists control a labor union, an educational group, or other groups.

A typical example occurred in Pittsburgh many times in labor union activities. A handful of Communists infiltrated a union, eagerly sought committee assignments, and got key positions. Meetings were timed to take advantage of the rank and file's apathy. The handful of Communists took over the union; passed resolutions, voted union money to Communist causes. Such things as this happened in Westinghouse Electric Corp. and Crucible Steel Co. unions in Pittsburgh.

One of the top aims of Communist Party infiltration is in educational institutions. This I learned particularly at the University of Pittsburgh where a Communist cell of only nine members operated.

Non-student Communists distributed Red leaflets on the campus. Communist students would watch reactions of those getting this literature. Students making favorable comment on this Communist propaganda would be invited to Red socials for further Communist indoctrinations. All this led to membership in the Labor Youth League, youth arm of the Communist Party.

Pinko professors, who parrot the pro-Soviet line and apologize for Stalin, give respectability to Communism. These pinko professors do as much damage as out-and-out Communists.

How is the Communist Party Financed

In the course of my tour, many people have asked me how the Communists

get their money. The Communist Party tries to make people think it's the party of the workers, but Commie leaders don't do much work, legitimate work that is.

The first surprise is: The Communists don't get most of their money from the Kremlin.

While money is available from Party sources for specific Communist activity, it will surprise Americans to learn that most money raised in the United States by the Communist Party — and it amounts to more than \$50,000,000 annually — is raised through Communist front organizations.

Many thousands of loyal Americans have been duped by these clever Communist fronts because unsuspecting citizens often give to groups and causes without learning the real purposes behind them.

For example, one of these Communist front groups set up to milk unsuspecting Americans of their savings, was the previously mentioned International Workers Order.

"What Can I Do?"

Everywhere people ask me over and over again: "What can I do to fight Communism?"

1. Demand a Congressional investigation to place responsibility on those who sold out China and brought on the Korean War.
2. Call on boards of education to supply proper textbooks that expose the methods of Communism. Demand that all educational institutions oust any Communist or pro-Communist professors.
3. Strengthen State and Federal laws covering the crimes of sabotage, espionage, sedition and conspiracy so that Communists and their accomplices can be dealt with. Demand that your representatives remove the statutes of limitations for such crimes. Remember that Alger Hiss was tried for perjury rather

than espionage because of the statute of limitation.

4. There is no negotiating with mass murderers and international conspirators whose sole aim is to destroy the United States government. Therefore, call on your government to sever diplomatic relations with Russia and her satellites. Send home their ambassadors, consuls, attaches and diplomatic fellow travelers.

5. William Oatis, American newspaper correspondent, is still in a Czech jail on Communist trumped up charges. Meanwhile, Tass newspaper correspondents, who are merely Soviet agents with typewriters, are running about spying in America. These Tass agents should be kicked out of the United States.

6. Call on the non-Communist countries in the United Nations to expell Russia and her satellite countries from the United Nations. This means booting out Soviet spies who use the United Nations as a sanctuary to carry on their plot against the free nations. Oppose the recognition of Red China by the United Nations.

7. Denaturalize and deport those who use their acquired American citizenship to destroy our Constitution and our freedoms by joining the Communist Party.

8. Call on your government to stop all aid to countries who are doing business with Russia, Red China and their satellites. While there is no declaration of war with Red China, Communist bullets are killing our boys in Korea.

Since Steve Nelson told me, "We (the Communists) must get all the help in money and materials from the suckers in the United States to hasten the day of the Communist Revolution in the United States", under no circumstances should we permit ourselves to be tricked into doing business with Stalin or his stooges including Red China.

Stalin says he has gold to pay for American goods. If he has money

stashed away, I suggest he repay America the \$11,000,000,000 he got in American aid during World War II.

Demand that elected officials never compromise with Communism. Remember, if we lose the fight against Communism, we lose our freedom forever.

You and I live in the greatest country in the world. Let's work together to keep it great — to keep it free.

ENCLOSURES TO BUREAU

RE: MATTHEW CVETIC

Former Pgh Security Informant C-113

PG 67-2584A

1. Text of 12 page speech by CVETIC captioned "I Was a Communist for the FBI."
2. Program of the Bloomsburg, Pa. Rotary Club, who sponsored a speech by CVETIC at Bloomsburg, Pa. on March 27, 1953.
3. One page leaflet from J. C. DINE, Frederic W. Ziv Co., 488 Madison Avenue, New York 22, New York, containing biographical data concerning CVETIC and "I Was a Communist for the FBI."
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100-372409-306

The Matthew Cvetic Radio Program

" I WAS A COMMUNIST FOR THE F.B.I."

is sponsored by The Magee Carpet Company every Sunday afternoon at one o'clock over WHLM - "The Voice of the Susquehanna Valley" - 690 k.c. The Magee Carpet Company is pleased to sponsor this type of program as a community service, believing that all citizens should be informed of the attempts of infiltration by the Communists into strategic centers in industry, education and Government.

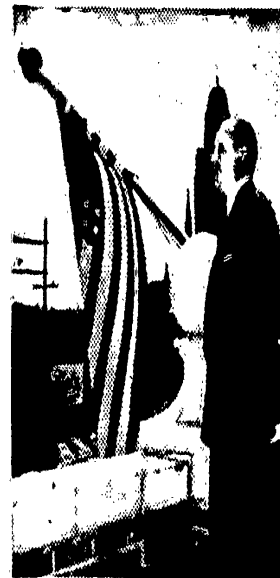


THE BLOOMSBURG ROTARY CLUB

Sponsors Personal Appearance of

MATTHEW CVETIC

"I Was A Communist For The F. B. I."



BLOOMSBURG HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1953

8:00 P. M.

100-372409-306

ITEMS OF INTEREST ABOUT MATTHEW CVETIC

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., one of eleven children. His Mother and Father came from Slovenia, which was located in Austria prior to World War I, in the early 1900's. Both parents were very critical of Matt's Communist activities, since they were very proud of their American citizenship and their country.

Employed in Pittsburgh division of General Motors, then in U. S. Dept. of Labor. Applied for work in the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1939. Requested by the FBI in April 1941 to infiltrate the Communist Party for the purposes of carrying on undercover activities in behalf of the U. S. Government

Joined the Communist Party on Lincoln's Birthday, 1943. Worked with Communist Party for ~~some~~ years, during which time met and plotted with top Soviet agents from Eastern European countries, Canada, and the United States.

Severed connections with Communist Party in February, 1950. Since then he has been used by the United States Government as a witness in many of the cases against known Communists and as a consultant in various probes.

PARTIAL RESULTS OF ACTIVITIES WHILE SERVING AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT:

Gave the FBI the names of hundreds of Soviet Agents in the U. S. A., both alien and domestic. Also gave the FBI over 50,000 pages of reports, documents and exhibits. Area of activity centered in Western Pennsylvania, concentration area of the Communist conspiracy due to the center of the steel industry in this section, as well as soft coal areas, and manufacturing strength.

Exposed over 325 Communist Party Leaders in Western Pennsylvania and other sections of the country. Turned over to Governmental Committees thousands of pages of testimony and documents in February 1950 and in 1951, exposing the Communist efforts to sabotage our war effort in Korea.

Exposed Communist activities in Front organizations, how they operated and controlled them, together with methods used to raise over \$50,000,000 a year from gullible Americans for the Revolution, and how they used legitimate organizations to indoctrinate Youth.

Some 200 Communists fired from key positions in universities, colleges, high schools, industries, trade unions, and municipal employment.

Exposed underground operations of Communist Party in steel, electric, trade unions, veterans, legal, nationality, negro, youth and women's organizations.

PROGRAM

At the Hammond Organ

Patriotic and Popular Tunes of the Day ... William Strang

Court of Honor Ceremony ... J. Wesley Knorr, Master of Ceremonies

Representatives of forty organizations of the area assembled to pay tribute to Matthew Cvetic for his outstanding accomplishments in preserving our "American Way of Life"

Address

MATTHEW CVETIC

"I Was a Communist for the F.B.I."

CREDITS

SPECIAL THANKS TO ...

The Magee Carpet Company for their cooperation in making Mr. Cvetic's appearance possible; also for furnishing the Hammond organ to make the evening the more enjoyable.

The American Legion, Valley of Bloomsburg Post 273, for their assistance in making this evening so successful.

The Bloomsburg Board of Education for use of the High School auditorium.

Moyer's Drug Store for handling reserve board.

The organizations who cooperated so nicely to make our "Court of Honor" so impressive.
